



Customer Focus

The Jones Family has long had the reputation as stewards of the land and have remained faithful to its credo – “Be good to the land and the land will be good to you.”

Under the stewardship of Terry Jones, his wife Jean, and son Jamie, the family continues the tradition of growing Christmas trees as well as strawberries, blueberries, pumpkins, gourds, squash, raspberries and wine grapes on their 400-acre farm.

Located in the suburban White Hills section of Shelton and situated in a public water supply watershed, the Jones’ closely follow their conservation plan that includes erosion control, wildlife habitat, and protection of water and soil quality and health. They also look for new and innovative ways to balance economic reality with environmental protection.

The Jones Family have long been advocates for the wise use of natural resources and are actively involved in national, state, and local organizations that promote the protection of working lands. Through the Farmland Protection Program, the Jones’ have been able to put one of their farms into a permanent conservation easement, giving them an opportunity to purchase additional land to expand their operation while helping to preserve farmland and slowing urban sprawl in Shelton.

Farmland Protection Program Connecticut Summary

Overview

The USDA Farmland Protection Program (FPP) helps farmers keep their productive land in agriculture. The program assists States, Tribes, local governments and non-profit organizations by purchasing conservation easements for the purpose of limiting conversion to non-agricultural uses. NRCS provides up to 50% of the easement cost to the cooperating entity, which acquires, manages, and enforces the easement. Land-owners participate voluntarily, and protected farms remain in private ownership. Every protected farm operates under a conservation plan approved by the local Conservation District. Nationally, over \$52 million have been obligated to state and local entities since establishment of the program in 1996. Proposals were accepted in 1996, 1997, 1998, and 2001.

Accomplishments

Connecticut has awarded nearly \$2.6 million in FPP funds to 12 Connecticut farms to protect over 2,000 acres of land. Since FPP was established in 1996, applications for funding were received three out of the four years funds were available. Connecticut programs requested over \$9.7 million to protect 46 farms. Proposals are selected through a competitive process to protect the most strategic farms that will help accomplish FPP and local land use goals. The easements also protect entire working farms, woodlands, wetlands, important natural areas, and cultural resources.

Outlook

Connecticut is a mosaic of cities and towns, forests, streams, and fields. Resource issues are complex, and with 3.4 million people living on 3.1 million acres, everyone is someone’s neighbor. Since 1984, Connecticut lost 21% of its farmland to development and urban sprawl, one of the fastest rates of farmland loss in the country. FPP relieves the pressure on farmers to sell their farms to developers by providing alternatives that preserve farming operations. And, because of increasing development pressures and the interest of concerned citizens, Connecticut has increased its request for funding from \$2.6 million in 1996 to \$4.1 million in 2001. Currently, there are 180 farms on a waiting list to participate in the program.



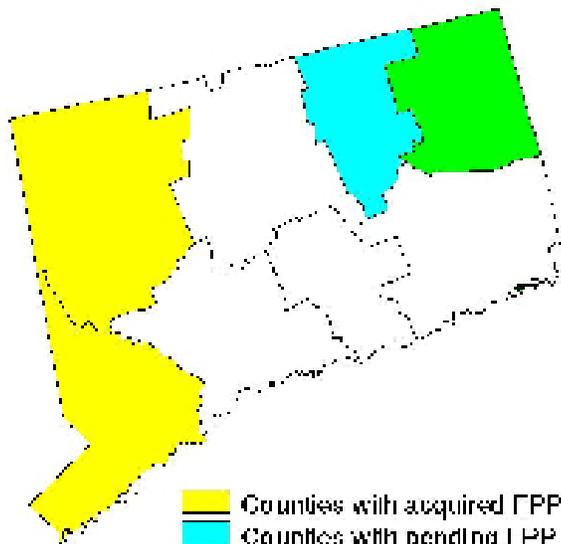
State Contact:

Kip Kolesinskas
FPP Manager
Phone: (860) 871-4047
kip.kolesinskas@ct.usda.gov

*Fall scene,
Jones Family Farms, Shelton,
Connecticut
Photo by: NRCS*

**Farmland Protection Program
Connecticut Easements
(As of December 2001)**

Connecticut



- Counties with acquired FPP acreage
- Counties with pending FPP acreage
- Counties with both acquired and pending FPP acreage



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Map Date: 1/2002

County: Fairfield
Acres: 92
Total Easement Cost: \$1,116,637
Average per acre: \$12,137
Federal Payment Amount: \$399,869
Percentage: 36%

County: Litchfield
Acres: 252
Total Easement Cost: \$668,513
Average per acre: \$2,656
Federal Payment Amount: \$324,606
Percentage: 49%

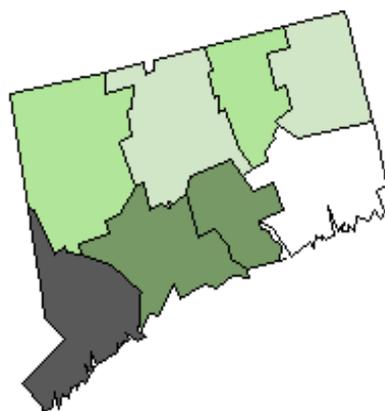
County: New London
Acres: 760
Total Easement Cost: \$1,506,244
Average per acre: \$1,982
Federal Payment Amount: \$752,266
Percentage: 50%

County: Tolland
Acres: 609
Total Easement Cost: \$2,109,371
Average per acre: \$3,464
Federal Payment Amount: \$775,736
Percentage: 37%

County: Windham
Acres: 329
Total Easement Cost: \$760,050
Average per acre: \$2,310
Federal Payment Amount: \$345,723
Percentage: 45%

Connecticut Totals:
Acres: 2,042
Total Easement Cost: \$6,160,815
Average per acre: \$3,017
**Federal Payment Amount:
\$2,598,200**
Percentage: 42%

Difference in Population between 1990 and 2000 Connecticut



- Change in Population
- 0 to 5,000
 - 5,000 to 7,500
 - 7,500 to 10,000
 - 10,000 to 20,000
 - > 20,000

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Census of Population 2000

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